

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00388 031615Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SCCT-01 SY-05 /062 W

----- 033448

O R 031545Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4854

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0388

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: MICOMBERO INTEREST IN RELEASE OF KIDNAP VICTIMS

1. PRESIDENT MICOMBERO PHONED ME AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON TO INQUIRE ABOUT PROGRESS IN EFFECTING RELEASE OF STUDENTS. I REVIEWED CURRENT PLAN TO USE VAGNI TO TRY TO MAKE CONTACT AND EXPLAINED THAT WE WERE HOLDING OFF ON ANY ACTION UNTIL MOBUTU APPROVED THE EFFORT. MEANTIME, WE HAD ALERTED PRIESTS ON BURUNDI SIDE OF LAKE TO OUR INTEREST IN ANY INFORMATION THEY MIGHT HEAR.

2. MICOMBERO SAID THAT HE WANTED TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE, SINCE BURUNDI WANTED TO SEE THE STUDENTS FREED SAFELY. I TOLD HIM THAT WASHINGTON WAS APPRECIATIVE OF HIS PAST EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT, AND I PROMISED TO KEEP HIM UP TO DATE.

3. HOUR LATER, WHEN EMBOFF WAS DELIVERING TO ZAIRIAN CHARGE YENDE THE (PRESUMABLY LINGALA) MESSAGE CONTAINED IN DAR 1862, YENDE SAID THAT MICOMBERO HAD JUST PHONED HIM TO SAY THAT BURUNDI WANTED TO DO WHATEVER IT COULD TO HELP RESOLVE IMPASSE. HE WOULD EVEN JOIN NYERERE AND MOBUTU IN MEETING ON SUBJECT. HE ASKED YENDE TO TELL THIS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUJUMB 00388 031615Z

TO MOBUTU VIA PRIVATE CHANNEL AND TO ADD THAT BURUNDI

WOULD NOT ACT UNTIL MOBUTU GAVE APPROVAL. OF COURSE, MICOMBERO WAS TOTALLY AGAINST GIVING ARMS TO REBELS (AS THEY HAD DEMANDED OF NYERERE), BUT IT WOULD SERVE AS INTERMEDIARY IF WANTED. MICOMBERO ALSO OFFERED SERVICES OF BURUNDI ARMY TO MOBUTU TO HELP MOP UP REBELS ONCE STUDENTS HAD BEEN RELEASED. YENDE IS TO COMMUNICATE MOBUTU'S ANSWER ONLY VIA FONMIN BUMAZUBUTE PERSONALLY.

4. GIVEN MOBUTU'S COMMENT TO DEVLIN ABOUT ALLEGEDLY RAPID SHIFTS IN MICOMBERO'S THOUGHTS, IT DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY THAT MOBUTU'S ANSWER (IF ANY) WILL ENCOURAGE MICOMBERO TO ACT. HOWEVER, IT IS PROBABLY HELPFUL TO US TO HAVE MOBUTU NUDGED TOWARD A DECISION IN THIS CASE BY A MESSAGE FROM ANOTHER AFRICAN CHIEF OF STATE. MICOMBERO'S OFFER TO YENDE OF INTERMEDIARY SERVICE CLEARLY DID NOT REFER IN CONTEXT TO HIS PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT, BUT RATHER TO PROVISION OF FACILITIES IN BURUNDI, SUCH AS PERHAPS USE OF NYANZA LAC AS MEETING PLACE, WHICH WE HAD MENTIONED TO MICOMBERO LAST WEEK.

5. I THINK THAT MICOMBERO IS PROBABLY SINCERE IN WANTING TO HELP RESOLVE THE KIDNAPPING. HOWEVER, THE CYNICAL SIDE OF MY NATURE CANNOT HELP SPECULATING THAT HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE AVERSE EITHER TO IMPROVING BURUNDI'S SOMEWHAT SULLIED IMAGE FOR HUMANITARIANISM IN THE WORLD OR TO PUTTING A LITTLE CREDIT IN THE BANK WITH BOTH ZAIRE AND THE U.S. FOR THE GESTURES OF ASSISTANCE NOW EXTENDED.  
MARK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, STUDENTS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BUJUMB00388  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750193-0981  
**From:** BUJUMBURA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750683/aaaacxun.tel  
**Line Count:** 88  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MICOMBERO INTEREST IN RELEASE OF KIDNAP VICTIMS  
**TAGS:** CASC, PFOR, US, BY, ZA, TZ, (NYERERE, JULIUS K), (MICOMBERO, MICHEL), (MOBUTU SESE SEKO)  
**To:** STATE KINSHASA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006